

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A software tool creation method, comprising:
2 prompting input of process steps and a plurality
3 of potential selections associated with each of the
4 process steps;
5 storing input process steps and associated
6 potential selections; and
7 using the stored process steps and associated
8 potential selections to create a software tool for
9 outputting the input process steps based upon input
10 selections.
- 1 ✓ 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the prompting is
2 performed by a displayed template.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the prompting is
2 audible.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein input of a
2 designation is further prompted and stored, associating a
3 potential selection with a subsequent process step.
- 1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein one of the
2 potential selections permits input of a character string.

1 ~~sub~~ 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the created
2 software tool is displayed.

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4 7. The method of claim 6, wherein the created
5 software tool is displayed as sequential process steps with
6 potential selections.

1 8. The method of claim 7, wherein each of the
2 plurality of sequential steps in a process is displayed
3 concurrent with a single step and associated potential
4 selections.

1 9. The method of claim 1, wherein input of a query
2 is prompted as a process step.

1 10. The method of claim 9, wherein potential answers
2 to the query are prompted as associated potential
3 selections.

1 ~~sub~~ 11. The method of claim 1, further comprising storing
2 the created software tool.

1 12. The method of claim 11, wherein at least one of
2 a stored process step and potential selection in the
3 created software tool is modifiable.

1 13. The method of claim 1, further comprising
2 prompting and storing input of a designation, associated
3 with a process step, indicating one of machine and non-
4 machine processing.

1 14. The method of claim 13, wherein upon receiving an
2 input designation indicating machine processing, further
3 input of information relating to the machine processing is

4 prompted.

1 ~~Sub~~ 15. The method of claim 1, wherein the created
2 software tool sequentially conveys each of the input
3 process steps and prompts selection of a potential
4 selection for each process step.

1 16. The method of claim 1, wherein the created
2 software tool is a wizard.

1 ~~Sub~~ 17. The method of claim 15, wherein the created
2 software tool sequentially displays each of the input
3 process steps.

1 18. The method of claim 15, wherein the created
2 software tool audibly sequentially outputs each of the
3 input process steps.

1 19. The method of claim 15, wherein conveyance of a
2 process step is dependent upon a selection made in response
3 to a previously conveyed process step.

1 ~~Sub~~ 20. A software tool creator, comprising:
2 a user interface, adapted to prompt input of
3 process steps and potential selections associated with
4 each of the process steps;
5 a memory adapted to store input process steps and
6 associated potential selections; and
7 a processor, adapted to create a software tool
8 based upon the stored process steps and associated
9 potential selections.

1 21. The software tool creator of claim 20, wherein
2 the user interface is displayed.

1 22. The software tool creator of claim 21, wherein
2 the user interface is an integrated input and display.

1 23. The software tool creator of claim 21, wherein
2 the user interface is a touch-screen.

1 ✓ 24. The software tool creator of claim 20, wherein
2 the user interface prompts audibly. 3

1 ✓ 25. The software tool creator of claim 21, wherein
2 the memory is adapted to store audibly input process steps
3 and associated potential selections. 4

1 ✓ 26. The software tool creator of claim 20, wherein
2 the user interface is further adapted to prompt input of a
3 designation, associating a potential selection with a
4 subsequent process step. 5

1 ✓ 27. The software tool creator of claim 20, wherein
2 one of the potential selections permits input of a
3 character string. 6

1 ✓ 28. The software tool creator of claim 20, wherein
2 the user interface prompts input of a query as a process
3 step. 7

1 ✓ 29. The software tool creator of claim 28, wherein
2 the user interface prompts input of potential answers to a
3 query as associated potential selections. 8

1 ✓ 30. The software tool creator of claim 20, wherein
2 the memory is further adapted to store the created software
3 tool. 9

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1 ✓ 31. The software tool creator of claim 20, wherein at
2 least one of a stored process step and potential selection
3 in the created software tool is modifiable through the user
4 interface.

1 ✓ 32. The software tool creator of claim 20, wherein
2 the user interface further prompts input of a designation,
3 associated with a process step, indicating one of machine
4 and non-machine processing.

1 ✓ 33. The software tool creator of claim 32, wherein
2 the user interface further prompts input of information
3 relating to the machine processing upon receiving an input
4 of a designation indicating machine processing. 14

1 34. The software tool creator of claim 33, wherein
2 the user interface further prompts input of a machine
3 connection. 14

1 35. The software tool creator of claim 34, wherein
2 the input of the machine connection includes input of a
3 URL. off

1 36. An article of manufacture, comprising:
2 a computer usable medium including,
3 first code for causing a computer to prompt
4 input of process steps and a plurality of
5 potential selections associated with each of the
6 process steps;
7 second code for causing a computer to store
8 input process steps and associated potential
9 selections; and
10 third code for causing a computer to create

11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100

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11 a software tool based upon the stored process
12 steps and associated potential selections.

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1 37. The article of manufacture of claim 36, wherein
2 the first code causes the computer to prompt via a
3 displayed template.

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1 38. The article of manufacture of claim 36, wherein
2 the first code causes the computer to audibly prompt.

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1 39. The article of manufacture of claim 36, wherein
2 the first code and second code respectively cause the
3 computer to further prompt and store an input designation,
4 associating a potential selection with a subsequent process
5 step.

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1 40. The article of manufacture of claim 36, wherein
2 the first code causes the computer to prompt input of
3 queries as the process steps.

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1 41. The article of manufacture of claim 40, wherein
2 the first code causes the computer to prompt input of
3 potential answers to the queries as the associated
4 potential selections.

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1 42. The article of manufacture of claim 36, wherein
2 the first code and second code respectively cause the
3 computer to prompt and store an input designation,
4 associated with a process step, indicating one of machine
5 and non-machine processing.

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1 43. The article of manufacture of claim 42, wherein
2 the first and second code respectively cause the computer
3 to prompt and store input of information relating to the

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✓ 55. The article of manufa
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third code

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2 information is stored in a relational database.

1 ✓ 59. The method of claim 13, further comprising:
2 accessing prestored information upon receiving an
3 input designation indicating machine processing.

1 ✓ 60. The method of claim 59, wherein the prestored
2 information is stored in a relational database.

1 ✓ 61. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 storing additional information associated with at
3 least one of a process step and potential selection. 7

1 ✓ 62. The method of claim 58, wherein the additional
2 information includes a URL. 35

1 ✓ 63. The method of claim 57, wherein the prestored
2 information includes information stored in a text file
3 including a state table.

1 ✓ 64. The method of claim 60, wherein the prestored
2 information includes information stored in a text file
3 including a state transition table.

1 ✓ 65. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 selecting from a plurality of languages in which
3 prompting will occur.

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